Carotinemia.—Hess and Myers (*Jour. Am. Med. Assn.*, December 6, 1919) report two cases in which this condition was found. Their attention was attracted by the yellowish complexion, which was not confined to the face but involved the entire body, with the most marked coloration of the hands, which also showed distinct signs of desquamation. The sclerotics were not at all involved. The urine was amber and the stools normally yellow. These cases appeared in a ward of about twenty-five infants and it was noted that these two babies were the only ones receiving a daily ration of carrots in addition to their milk and cereal. Then carrots were added to the dietary of two other children of about the same age. One, after an interval of about five weeks developed a yellowish tinge to the skin and after two more weeks the second infant developed a similar tinge. On omission of the carrots the skin gradually lost its yellow color and in the course of some weeks regained its normal tint. The blood as well as the plasma were found to be distinctly yellow. The pigment was soluble in purified petroleum benzin. It was evident that there was present in these cases a systemic pigmentation brought about by the introduction of an excessive amount of carotin into the body. The pigment is non-toxic and leads to no physiological disturbance. Not only carrots but also any food which contains carotin in high degree may bring about this condition. The urine becomes a yellower tint.

Antineuritic Vitamin.—Daniels, Byfield and Loughlin (*Am. Jour. Dis. Children*, December, 1919) publish the results of their observation on the babies in their clinic. They found that the addition of the antineuritic vitamin obtained from wheat embryo to the diet of babies supplied with food furnishing an adequate number of calories stimulated growth. The beneficial influence of adding a specially prepared vegetable soup in sufficient quantity as part diluent in the milk, modification for infants is apparently due to the presence of the antineuritic vitamin contained therein. Both the alcoholic soluble material of the dried soup vegetable, and the water extract stimulated growth. The fact that the artificially-fed infant requires a larger amount of food than the breast-fed infant appears to be due to the relative paucity of diluted cow's milk in the antineuritic vitamin. It is probable that failure to gain in infants and young children is often the result of an insufficient amount of the antineuritic vitamin in the food. The diets of the young should be more carefully scrutinized with this in mind.

Chemical Examination of the Blood in Children.—Chapin and Myers (*Am. Jour. Dis. Children*, December, 1919) publish their observations on the chemical examination of the blood of one hundred and forty-nine children. Thirty-eight of these were nephritics and six were diabetics. The results were practically the same as those that have been obtained in the adult, although the kidney of the child would appear to act somewhat more efficiently than the kidneys of the adult, resulting in slightly lower normal figures for the sugar, urea, creatinin and uric acid, and a slightly better phenolsulphonephthalein test. Along this line it is shown that nephritis in children does not result so quickly in urea retention as in the adult and the prognosis is therefore more favorable in early life than in later life. Also creatinin retention rarely occurs in

children, being found in only four cases of this series. Of these two died of symptoms typical of interstitial nephritis. The authors regard the blood urea as a very helpful prognostic test in the nephritis of childhood. The results of the phenolsulphonephthalein test are usually in accord with the clinical findings and the blood urea. The carbon dioxid combining power of the blood is a very reliable method of ascertaining the severity of the acidosis in the diarrheal acidosis.

OBSTETRICS

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Frequency of Shoulder Presentation in Different Countries.—IPPOLITO (*Gazetta degli Ospedali e dalle Cliniche*, Milan, March 2, 1919) has collected statistics from six different countries showing that the proportion of shoulder presentation ranges from 0.35 per cent. in America, 0.36 in England, 0.58 per cent. in Germany, 0.66 in France, 0.71 in Austria. On the other hand Italy has an average of 1.40 per cent. shoulder presentations. In twenty years' practice in Sicily in 10,000 deliveries Ippolito encountered shoulder presentation in 0.2 per cent. Comparing the various races it is observed that shoulder presentation becomes less frequent the taller the mothers. While least common among Anglo-Saxons, it occurs most frequent among the Slavic races of Austria. However, the distance between the lower margin of the xiphoid appendage and the upper margin of the symphysis pubis is remarkably constant in women, irrespective of their height. Sicilian women are short but the shortness is in the legs, the length of the trunk and the distance between the xiphoid cartilage and the pubes are rather above than below the average. The writer insists then that the xiphopubic measurement is a very important measurement in obstetric practice. He believes that women are useful in preventing abuses among the poor working women in factories, improperly clad and wearing corsets.

The Transmission of Rabies to the Fetus.—REMLINGER (*Bull. de la Acad. de méd.*, April 8, 1919) has made experiments which confirm Konradi's results. When rabies is inoculated into animals they may not appear out of health for from one to three months, but the young born during this time show rabies and may have died before the mother contracts the disease. In Remlinger's experience one animal developed rabies one hundred and twenty-two days after the inoculation. This was sixty-eight days after the birth of the young and thirty-eight days after the death of the last one of the young. In some cases a year elapsed before the mother died from rabies contracted from the fetus. Young animals may be apparently healthy and yet if infected in the uterus may develop rabies at any time without further contact. It has